

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for automatic configuration upon installation of a network printer are disclosed. The techniques of the invention avoid the burden of manual configuration by users and system administrators. The network printer is associated with printer description files, a driver, a spooler, and a port monitor. The system comprises bi-directional application program interfaces associated with the spooler for allowing the driver to generate a bi-directional request and receive a bi-directional response. The system additionally includes a syntax within the printer description files for representing and associating the bi-directional request and the bi-directional response with a print feature. The system also includes extension files stored in the driver for relating bi-directional values and printer values and a notification infrastructure controlled by the port monitor for providing a bi-directional notification of configuration changes to the driver and selected applications.